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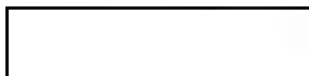
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NSC BRIEFING

11 March 1954

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COMMUNIST POSITION AT GENEVA

I.



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II.



Orbit

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propaganda energetically supporting Viet Minh.

A. This points to a Communist claim at Geneva that Viet Minh is sole representative of Viet-nameese people.

B. French hopes that Peiping would sacrifice Viet Minh in return for some major Western concession such as UN recognition thus appear unfounded.

C. Communists unwilling damage Communist prospects in Southeast Asia.

III. Communists at Geneva will make strong demand for immediate national elections without outside direction.

A. Communists confident Viet Minh will win.

B. No doubt that immediate holding elections after truce would result in Viet Minh victory.

C. Rejection of early elections by West would make Communists look as the true supporters of democracy.

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25X1 IV. [REDACTED] dangers of immediate plebiscite elections seen by all in Indochina, but there no answer yet to counter proposal for such.

- A. Buu Loc Government technically competent but has little popular support; it not capable of dealing with Viet Minh in any elections.
- B. Bao Dai's adamant opposition to elections for a National Assembly gravely weakens anti-Communist leadership.

V. Communist propaganda now preparing to blame US for failure Geneva conference.

- A. Viet Minh propaganda increasingly violent in its anti-American theme.

25X1 B. [REDACTED] for first time Vietnamese who work for US aid programs been reported by Viet Minh as assassinated.

- C. This could be precursor of terror campaign against pro-Americans.

25X1 VI. If Geneva conference fails, the scale of war in Indochina will be greatly increased.

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B. French fear of prospect of hotter war
may do much to make them more susceptible
to Communist proposals.

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